

WISCONSINITES ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Wisconsinites. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Wisconsin. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Wisconsin.

INCOME: WISCONSINITES ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Wisconsin was \$52,303.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Wisconsin was \$45,956, a significant drop of 12.1 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN WISCONSIN HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Wisconsin had 401,000 adults without insurance (7.6 percent).³
- In 2005, Wisconsin had 534,000 adults without insurance (16.1 percent).⁴
- Wisconsin had 57,165 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ Wisconsin will face a funding shortfall of \$6,718,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN WISCONSIN

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Wisconsin was \$7,385.⁷ In 2005, it was \$9,872, a 34 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Wisconsin was \$20,271.⁹ In 2005, it was \$24,574, a 21 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of Wisconsinites affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 84,346¹¹
- Number of Wisconsinites affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 65,161¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR WISCONSIN RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Wisconsin was \$1.534 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in Wisconsin is \$2.392 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Wisconsin was \$2,012.¹⁵
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Wisconsin is \$3,138, \$1,126 (55.9 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: WISCONSINITES DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Wisconsin – 937,490¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Wisconsin – \$907¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: WISCONSINITES ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Wisconsinites killed in Iraq – 61¹⁹
- Number of Wisconsinites wounded in Iraq – 397²⁰
- Number of Wisconsinites killed in Afghanistan – 6²¹
- Number of Wisconsinites wounded in Afghanistan – 12²²
- Number of Veterans in Wisconsin – 474,594²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING WISCONSIN'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 602 estates in Wisconsin paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 93 estates in Wisconsin will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 124,000 workers in Wisconsin would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN WISCONSIN IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Wisconsin per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 236.8²⁷
- Number of Violent Crimes in Wisconsin per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 241.5²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 7,300,099²⁹
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 4,387,030³⁰

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST WISCONSINITES

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Wisconsinites.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Wisconsin residents each received an average of \$ 2,722 in tax cuts, while middle class Wisconsin residents received only \$404.³¹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Wisconsin residents will receive an average of \$34,152 in tax cuts, while middle class Wisconsin residents will only receive \$757.³²
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Wisconsin residents will each receive an average of \$66,842 in tax cuts, while middle class Wisconsin residents will only receive \$880.³³

The richest Wisconsinites receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Wisconsinites received 18.1 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 6.1 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- But, in 2006, the richest Wisconsinites will get 23.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.5 percent of the tax cut.³⁵
- And, in 2010, the richest Wisconsinites will get 45.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.0 percent of the tax cut.³⁶

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Wisconsinites.

- In 2010, the richest Wisconsinites will receive an average of \$10,194 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Wisconsinites will be getting over 44.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁷
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Wisconsinites will receive an average of \$75 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 6.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁸

SOURCES

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, *Health Insurance Coverage: 2001*.
[<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html>]
- 4: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Bureau of the Census *Current Population Survey*, 3/06.
[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm]
- 5: Congressional Research Service, *SCHIP: A Brief Overview*, 9/21/06.
- 6: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *SCHIP Finance Update*, 9/21/06.
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 10: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 13: Federal Highway Administration [<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm>]
- 14: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 16: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 17: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html>]
- 18: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.html>]
- 19: [http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf]
- 20: [http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf]
- 21: [http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf]
- 22: [http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf]
- 23: House Democratic Leader. [<http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc>]

- 24: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]
- 25: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
- 26: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]
- 27: Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics.
[<http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StatebyState.cfm%20>]
- 28: FBI, Crime in the US 2005. [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_05.html]
- 29: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 30: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 31: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 32: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 33: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 34: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 35: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 36: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 37: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 38: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05 Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 